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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,606	04/13/2001	D. Lee Manner	13202.00288	4733

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EXAMINER

LECHERT JR, STEPHEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1732

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/833,606

Applicant(s)

MANNER, D. LEE

Examiner

Stephen J. Lechert Jr.

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 17-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 17-29 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 10. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant arguments have been and carefully considered. Applicant's amendments have been entered. Applicant's new claims 19-29 which are product by process claims are withdrawn from consideration because in the last office action the restriction election requirement was made final. When the method claims are deemed allowable, the examiner will rejoin claims 19-29 drawn to the product by process.
2. Action on the merits claims 1-10 and 17-18 follows:
3. Claims 10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claims 10 and 18, applicant has used improper Markush language. Applicant should couch in claim 10 and 18 "or" should be replaced with **--and--**.
4. Claims The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
6. Claims 1-10 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levesque in combination with Kohlruss et al.

Levesque teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Levesque teaches a process of grinding a wood pulp board that has been made by a pulping process which

Art Unit: 1732

includes the steps of soaking fibrous materials in water, to form an intermediate and then macerating the intermediate to form a pulp, the pulp is then formed into a block and dried. The soaking, macerating, formation of the block is conventionally known steps in preparing pulp board or wood fluff. [Note Column 2, Paragraph 3]. The wood pulp board of Levesque is sprayed with a water repellent so that it penetrates the board. Thereafter, the impregnated wood pulp board is ground into a fluffy bat material comprised of impregnated pulp fibers. The suggested water repellents used as impregnates are disclosed at Column 3, lines 20-25 and include wax as described by applicant.

Levesque as stated above broadly teaches using wax as a water impregnated but not applicant's specific oils or paraffin wax.

Kohlruss et al. teach a puffy or fluffy pulp which is impregnated with paraffin wax, beeswax or oil. Kohlruss teaches applicant's specific beeswax.


It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a method of making an absorbent from a wood pulp block which has been impregnated with a water repellent such as wax or oils. This method of water repelling a wood pulp has been taught in Levesque to specifically use a beeswax or paraffin wax where wax has been broadly taught was a water repellent impregnate would have been obvious and has been suggested by the combined teachings of Levesque and Kohlruss et al. thus rendering applicant's invention as a whole obvious absent criticality in showing.

Art Unit: 1732

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Lechert Jr. whose telephone number is 703-305-6156. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard D. Crispino can be reached on 703-308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5665.


Stephen J. Lechert Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

April 7, 2003